

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • May 13, 2022

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www.graceunitedtavistock.com



WOWRC
WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Last Sunday I was away for the Western Ontario Waterways Regional meeting, followed by the Regional Exec meeting, and I thought you might like to know what took place. As well as the usual farewells, recognition, covenanting, and in memoriam of colleagues, there was a special presentation for the 60th anniversary of UCW. Did you know that since their inception, the United Church Women have raised \$138.5 million dollars!!! Way to go UCW – and thank you for leading our Grace service last Sunday.

The theme of the Regional Meeting was “Our Words Matter.” I was reminded of the statement that Anne Gregory, Chair of Grace Board, reads out at the beginning of every board meeting. Most know that it is important to carefully consider our words – but what exactly does it mean when we reflect on how our words matter?

As we began the regional meeting, we began by considering how to conduct ourselves as we gather in relation to our words. I think the acrostic statement that was used can be useful to all of us:

R – responsibility for what you say and feel without blaming others

E - empathetic listening

S – sensitive to different communication styles

P – ponder what you hear and feel before you speak

E – examine your own assumptions and perceptions

C – confidentiality to uphold what you hear

T – trust ambiguity and know that there is not always a right vs a wrong answer.



In the meeting we considered the term ‘Mission.’ This is a widely used term that we are all familiar with and have used in many contexts – including Mission and Service. An interesting presentation was made on how some sectors of the community, particularly our indigenous people, feel the negative connotations of the word due to cultural dominance and attempts at assimilation. In groups we had an interesting discussion about what we would keep about mission, and

what we would want to leave behind. How would you answer this question? Then we created a word cloud of what alternative words we could use in place of mission. As the new co-chair of the WOW Region Mission and Discipleship Commission, I think this will be something that we will continue to discuss.

During one of the worship sessions, the focus was also on words in relation to bullying behaviour which has become increasingly more frequent within the church. It exists everywhere – clergy to lay, lay to clergy, lay to lay, staff to staff etc. The worship team grounded the worship in scripture using various aspects of David's life, who was bullied then used his authority to become a bully himself. Members of regional staff acted out fictitious phone conversations with examples of bullying within the church. It was very powerful and thought provoking, and it will be followed up later with further workshops on bullying.

Later in the meeting there was a presentation and discussion about the use of personal pronouns: he/him, she/her, they/them and the effort we should make to show respect and be inclusive through not making assumptions. We can do this through our language, as well as through our physical environment e.g. gender neutral washrooms. The take home of the discussion was that if you don't know someone's pronoun – then it is ok to ask!

I think it is good for everyone to take time to consider how 'our words matter.' Let us reflect on the words from James 3:9-10

With the tongue we praise our God, and with it we curse others, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brother and sisters, this should not be.

Peace, Rev. Gail (she/her)

Upcoming Services and Dates:

ALL SERVICES CAN BE VIEWED ON GRACE YOUTUBE CHANNEL, WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH OUR WEBSITE: www.graceunitedtavistock.com

May 15th: 9:30 am Choir Practice

10:30 am Worship Service 'A New Vision'

Sunday School - Zion Hall,

11:30 am Dedication of New Sign

May 18th: 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit, Stay n' Crochet

7:00 pm Board Meeting

May 19th: 7:00 pm Choir Practice

May 22nd: 10:30 am Worship Service 'Casting our Nets' - led by the Worship Team

Sunday School - Zion Hall

May 26th: 7:00 pm Choir Practice



Contact us

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Office Hours

Rev. Gail Tues to Thurs 10:00–3:00 pm

Katherine Brenneman Tues. and Thurs. 9:30 – 12:30 pm

Care and Communication Team

Rev. Gail 519 703 1954

Jean Lowe 519 655 3205

Elizabeth Halliday 519 655 2246

Mary Ann Krantz 519 272 4072

Do you have a prayer request?

"In all things let your requests be known to God in prayer." (Philippians 4:6)

Grace has a group of wonderful and dedicated people that form a prayer chain. If you, or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please reach out to our Minister, Rev. Gail, or to the chair of Grace PCO, Bev Neeb, and we will begin praying for you.

◇ Pray for Sherman Kropf as he struggles with health issues



May 15th Dedication of New Sign

We are very grateful for the Brown Family for the generous donation of our new sign out front. I hope you have been enjoying the messages on it. Now that the weather is warmer, please join us this Sunday (May 15th) as we all step outside after worship to dedicate the sign with a cutting ribbon ceremony. This will be followed by refreshments with a specially made cake - please join us as we gather as a community!

I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Ken and Gloria Reibling, Bev Neeb, Marcia Bender, Elizabeth Halliday and Joanne Bean for helping to paint the inside walls and bunks of the Tavistock Cabin at Camp Bimini and of course Carol Young was on hand to offer her expertise and support! Lots of fun and laughs makes a big job easier and that we had but we will not deny stiff muscles and sore knees the next morning! The cabin looks fresh and cheery again!

Due to the work of Eugene Bender, Ken Reibling, Wanda Brown, Bill Brown and John Markle Tavistock Grace United Church's cabin at camp Bimini has been scraped down and the exterior now has a fresh coat of paint to welcome campers this summer.

Also a special note that Grace was the first group to have their cabin painted at Bimini! Well done. Thanks again gang!

Tory Zehr

On behalf of the Board of GUC

In Wellness and Love: As a community of faith, we are a family. Our concern for each other includes a desire to keep us all well and safe. For this reason, the Grace United Board have decided that we will continue to require all people to wear masks during worship and meetings at Grace. The only exception is for the worship leaders and choir members, or those singing into the microphones. Thank you for your participation in keeping us all safe.



Message from M&P:

No doubt many of you will be concerned about what will be happening on Sundays at Grace United once Rev Gail preaches her final sermon on June 5th. Please rest assured that your Worship Committee has everything under control. With a combination of Pulpit Supply, Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, Youth/Sunday School, some of our congregation members, and our usual summer Visiting Sunday and Service in the Park you will find lots of meaningful and challenging thoughts brought to you each Sunday throughout the summer months.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee are currently working on the required documentation for the appointment of a supply Minister. Once this is submitted and approved by the Region we will need to form a small search committee to review applications and interview candidates for this appointment. We hope to have this in place for the beginning of September.

We will definitely keep you updated as to our progress. If you have any questions please feel free to contact any of the members of the M&P Committee.

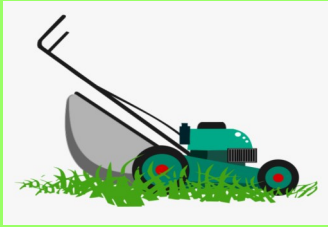
Chris Wiffen, Carol Shewfelt, Joan Bartlett, Suanne Wettlaufer, Tory Zehr

Rev Gail is away on holiday May 19—25th. The worship team will lead worship on Sunday, May 22. If you require Pastoral Care please contact the Care and Communication Team. (names and phone numbers on page 2)

**Signs of
Spring
- Goslings
in Stratford**



Lawn mowing at the church: We are looking for a volunteer to mow the grass around the manse and at the front by the sign. Lawn mowing for less than one half hour . No cemetery work. Lawn mower



available in the shed. If we are not able to find a volunteer the board will have to make a decision at next week's board meeting about what to do. Please contact the property committee of the Board, John Markle, Dale Brenneman, Doug Shirray if you are able to help.

Tavistock Fall Fair Food Booth

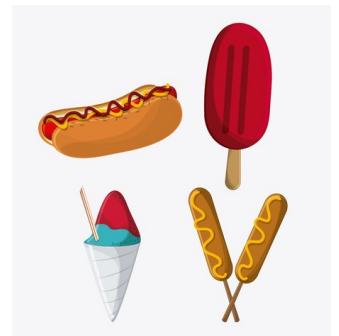
At our last board meeting the board received the letter of retirement of the Fall Fair Food Booth committee, we extend a sincere thank you for the many years of organizing the food booth.

Now it's time to look to a new group of volunteers. We are asking if anyone or group would like to take on organizing this fundraiser. The committee has lots of detailed notes to help out and would be happy to let you know what is involved. Grace would have to let the Tavistock Agricultural Society know of our intention by June. If we are not able to find volunteers the board will be making a decision at next week's board meeting whether to continue with the food booth.

In the past this has been a valuable fundraiser for the church, the last year we ran the booth in 2019 we raised approximately \$2500. And had a great time out in the community.

We would love to hear some feed back from our Community of Faith.

The Board of GUC



SAVE THE DATES!

May 29th: You won't want to miss the entertaining music of **Kiley Joe Mason**. It will be a fun concert of rocking Gospel music and old time Hymns. A good time to sing and clap along! Get your tickets NOW - see poster for details. **Why not buy a ticket and give it to someone who doesn't come to church.**

June 4th: Grace will be taking part in the **community wide yard sale Sat. June 4th, 8 am - 12:00 pm**. We will be accepting yard sale donations at the church on Wed. June 1, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, Thurs. June 2 and Fri. June 3, 10 am - 8 pm. Please no upholstered items or clothing items. All other items accepted. It's a good time to start spring cleaning and save your items for the yard sale!



GREAT ENTERTAINMENT

Kiley Joe Mason!

A CONCERT OF GOSPEL AND HYMNS

at Grace United Church
SUNDAY MAY 29TH
3.00-4.30PM

TICKETS \$20

(INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS)

Order by phone: 519 655 2151

Order by email:

graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com



With Special Guest
GRAYSON

